

ABSTRACT

THESIS: The Indiana State Library: A Testament of History Thru Architecture

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The Indiana State Library and Historical Building, constructed in 1934, is an outstanding example of stripped classicism and Art Deco. The ornament on both the exterior and interior of the limestone structure portray the regional story of the development of Indiana. The monumental building is the most well-known work by Indianapolis architectural firm Pierre and Wright. Little has been written on the Indiana State Library and Historical Building and a comprehensive architectural history has never before been compiled on this remarkable building.

The subject of research pertains to the original building only. Investigation examines the architectural competition for the design, the construction process, the numerous carvings, large stained glass windows, and four murals, and the symbolism in the ornament of the Indiana State Library and Historical Building. Through research at the Indiana State Library and the Indiana State Archives and

using both primary and secondary resources, the motivation for much of the ornament was discovered. Additionally, long forgotten details and symbolism were recovered.

This research provides insight into the narrative as told by the architecture and ornament of the building. It may assist in the research on the 1976 addition and the 2002 renovation that has yet to be completed. Furthermore, it will likely aid in future renovations and restorations of the building.